proposal for installation of water treatments plants for treatment of water of ponds and lakes. However, under a centrally sponsored scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan for the conservation and management of polluted lakes, sewage treatment plants have been sanctioned for the abatement of pollution of the lake. The names of States, towns and lakes where the sewage treatment plants have been sanctioned so far, during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

SI. No	State	Town	Lake	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Mansagar	4.5	-	-
2	Karnataka	Bangalore	Kotekere	-	0.88	-
3	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul District		1.05		-
4	Uttaranchal	Nainital	Bhimtal	-	-	1.35
	TOTAL:			4.5	1.93	1.35

(c) & (d) Government have not received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for restoration of 'Pushkar Sarovar' in Ajmer District for consideration under National Lake Conservation Plan.

Forest cover for ecological balance

590. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 30.6 per cent of land in Assam is under forest cover and also more than 3 per cent of land is under trees or forests, having value for ecological balance of a country, but not recognised by forest department of the Government, which exceed 33 per cent as required by the norms of forests cover for ecological balance in Assam; and

(b) if so, what is the difficulty of Government in declaring some of the deforested forest land, occupied by peasants long ago, *i.e.* 35 to 50 years, as dereserved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) According to the State of Forest Report, 2001 the forest cover and tree cover of Assam is 27,714 Sq. Km. (35.3%) and 1942 Sq. Km. (2.5%) respectively of the total

geographical area of the State. The National Forest Policy, 1988 aims at having a minimum of one third of geographical area of the country under forest or tree cover and enjoins maintaining two-third of the area in the hills and in mountainous regions under forest cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have already issued guidelines for regularisation of pre-1980 eligible encroachment of forest lands.

Notified forest area in Gujarat

591. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any notified forest area in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to preserve the forest area in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir. The details of forest area in the State of Gujarat are as follows:

Reserved forest	14155.18 sq. Kms.
Protected forest	394.85 sq. Kms.
Unclassed forest	4562.51 sq. Kms.
Total forest area	19112.54 sq. Kms.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government has taken various steps for preservation of forests which include deployment of 27 Mobile squads and 7 Striking forces, 153 Checking Nakas established all over the State in sensitive areas, a well established communication network with wireless and walkie talkie sets established of effective communication, arms provided to the field protection stafff or self